



Association of Bay Area Governments
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Metropolitan Transportation Commission

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Joint Policy Committee / Regional Planning Program

Date: May 11, 2006
To: Joint Policy Committee
From: Regional Planning Program Director
Subject: *Focusing Our Vision* Progress Report

This memo provides a brief report on progress on the *Focusing Our Vision* program since the JPC last met in March.

Meetings with Local Governments and Others

Meetings were held with local-government staff in all nine Bay Area counties. In addition we were invited to present the *Focusing Our Vision* program to additional groups of elected officials and to some voluntary-sector organizations.

On May 8th we hosted a forum for stakeholder groups at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. The forum, attended by over a hundred stakeholder representatives, received a presentation on the program and then divided into breakout groups to identify priorities and issues and to nominate stakeholder members to the program's Technical Advisory Committee.

A list of meetings, divided by type, is attached as Appendix A.

Technical Advisory Committee

One of the purposes of the meetings with local-government staff and of the stakeholder forum was to solicit members for a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to work with us as the program proceeds. In each case, those present at the meeting chose their own representatives (occasionally after a post-meeting caucus). The first meeting of the TAC will be on Thursday, May 25th. A list of TAC members and alternatives (noting a few positions yet to be resolved) is attached as Appendix B.

Data Collection and Analysis

A substantial set of data to assist in the identification of Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation Areas has been assembled. The Technical Advisory Committee will assist us in the analysis of this data. Geographical Information System (GIS) maps illustrating some of the data will be on display at the JPC meeting.

“We Have Met The Enemy...and He Is Us”— Pogo

In our meetings with local elected and appointed officials, a pervasive theme has been an attitude of hostility and distrust toward regional agencies and regional processes. This presents a significant barrier to overcome in establishing the collaboration required to move *Focusing Our Vision* forward. Among the comments we repeatedly heard are:

- ABAG keeps trying to IMPOSE housing and population on us;
- MTC is biased toward the big cities in the central Bay Area;
- MTC is biased toward the suburbs;
- MTC is trying to kill our transit project by demanding uneconomic, unrealistic and undesirable densities;
- ABAG’s projections of population, jobs and housing growth are totally unrealistic;
- You guys in Oakland are out of touch;
- You keep trying to make one size fit all;
- You are all about top down;
- Based on past experience, we have no reason to trust your promise of collaboration.

Most of the members of the JPC are both local-government elected officials and directors of regional agencies, and these comments should be of concern. While by no means universal (A few folks actually appear to like us and agree with what we are doing.), the negative attitude toward the region is sufficiently widespread to create an impediment to productive dialogue. Clearly ABAG, BAAQMD, and MTC have important regional objectives to pursue which may be at odds with local objectives, and some cynicism and resentment is always to be expected; but the apparent inability to acknowledge legitimate differences without attributing ulterior motives is worrisome.

Ultimately trust can only be built by demonstrating behavior consistent with our promises (i.e., walking the talk). However, even then there may be residual prejudice. Our purpose will benefit from discussion of what we all (elected and appointed) can do to build bridges between the regional agencies and their constituent local governments.

Appendix A

Focusing Our Vision Building the Network of Neighborhoods

Introductory Meetings with Local Elected Officials

Group	Date	Location
Santa Clara County Cities Association	January 12 th , 2006	Sunnyvale
Napa County League of Governments	January 19 th , 2006	Napa
West Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference	February 1 st , 2006	El Cerrito
Alameda County Mayors' Conference	February 8 th , 2006	Berkeley
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)	February 9 th , 2006	San Carlos
Solano County Coordinating Council	February 9 th , 2006	Vacaville
East Bay Division of the League of California Cities	February 16 th , 2006	Orinda
Walnut Creek City Council	March 21 st , 2006	Walnut Creek
West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee	March 31 st , 2006	San Pablo
East Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference (Delta Six)	April 20 th , 2006	Brentwood
Marin City-County Planning Committee	April 27 th , 2006	San Rafael
Oakland City Council	May 2 nd , 2006	Oakland
Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference	May 4 th , 2006	Concord

Introductory Meetings with Local Appointed Officials

Jurisdictions	Date	Location
City and County of San Francisco	March 24 th , 2006	San Francisco
Napa Cities and County	March 30 th , 2006	Napa
Sonoma Cities and County	March 30 th , 2006	Santa Rosa
Contra Costa Cities and County	March 30 th , 2006	Pleasant Hill
Solano Cities and County	March 31 st , 2006	Fairfield

Jurisdictions	Date	Location
Alameda Cities and County	March 31 st , 2006	Oakland
Marin Cities and County	April 7 th , 2006	San Rafael
San Mateo Cities and County	April 13 th , 2006	San Carlos
Santa Clara Cities and County	April 21 st , 2006	San Jose

Introductory Meetings with Stakeholder Groups

Group	Date	Location
Housing Leadership Council, San Mateo County	February 21 st , 2006	San Carlos
Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy	March 1 st , 2006	Cotati
Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC)	April 1 st , 2006	Oakland
San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR)	April 13 th , 2006	San Francisco
Stakeholder Forum	May 8 th , 2006	San Francisco

Other Staff-Level Meetings to Introduce the Focus Program and Explore Joint Program Opportunities

(may include multiple meetings on various dates and other continuing information exchanges)

Alameda County Planning Directors
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities
Bay Area Council
Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)
California Center for Regional Leadership (CCRL)
Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)
Contra Costa County Planning Directors
East Bay Community Foundation
El Camino Real Grand Boulevard Project
Greenbelt Alliance
Non-profit Housing Association of Northern California (NPH)
Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)
SamTrans
San Francisco Foundation
San Francisco Planning Department
Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG)
Solano County Planning Directors
Sonoma County Planning Directors

Transit and Land Use Coalition (TALC)
Urban Ecology
Valley Transportation Authority
West Contra Costa County Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC)

Appendix B

Focusing Our Vision Building the Network of Neighborhoods

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members

Jurisdiction/Interest	Members	Alternates
Alameda County	Larry Cheeves City Manager, Union City Jeri Ram Community Development Director, Dublin	Hanson Hom Community Development Director, San Leandro Phil Kamlarz City Manager, Berkeley
Contra Costa County	Victor Carniglia Deputy Director, Com- munity Development, Antioch Steve Falk City Manager, Lafayette	Janet Keefer City Manager, Orinda
Marin County	Bob Brown Community Development Director, San Rafael Dave Wallace Community Development Director, Novato	Nancy Kaufman Planning Director, Lark- spur Paul Kermoyan Community Develop- ment Director, Sausalito
Napa County	Hilary Gitelman Planning Director, Napa County Howard Siegel Community Partnership Manager, Napa County	
San Francisco	Tilly Chang Deputy Director, San Francisco County Trans- portation Authority Amit Ghosh Chief of Comprehensive Planning, San Francisco Planning Department	Sara Dennis Senior Planner, San Francisco Planning De- partment
San Mateo County	Duane Bay Director of Housing, San Mateo County Tom Madelena Planner, C/CAG	
Santa Clara County	Sharon Fierro Community Development Director, Campbell Laurel Prevetti	Robert Paternoster Community Develop- ment Director, Sunny- vale

Jurisdiction/Interest	Members	Alternates
	Deputy Community Development Director, San Jose	Pamela Vasudevai Planner, Valley Transportation Authority
Solano County	Eve Somjen Assistant Director, Planning and Development, Fairfield Matt Walsh Principal Planner, Solano County	
Sonoma County	Mike Moore Community Development Director, Petaluma Pete Parkinson Permit and Resource Management Director, Sonoma County	Nancy Adams Transportation Planner, Santa Rosa Janet Spillman Deputy Director, Sonoma County Transportation Authority
Affordable Housing	Geeta Rao Policy Director, Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California	Bob Planthold Senior Action Network
Economic Development	Eliot Hurwitz Program Manager, Napa County League of Governments	Jim Wunderman Executive Director, Bay Area Council
Environment	Bettina Ring Executive Director, Bay Area Open Space Council	
Environmental Justice	Margaret Gordon Executive Director, West Oakland Environmental Indicators	
Social Equity	TBD	Lila Hussain Transportation Program Associate, Urban Habitat
Transportation	John Holtzclaw Chair, Transportation Committee, Sierra Club	TBD